

BRIDGWATER
Rural District Council.

THE THIRTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Wilberforce Thompson,

AND

THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

Richard Popham.

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

BRIDGWATER :

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Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year 1909.

To the

Chairman and Members of the Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of submitting to you my Report for the year 1909, and of laying before you the usual tables of vital statistics.

The District covers an area of 85,076 acres, with a population of 19,238, and is divided into a Western Division and an Eastern Division by the River Parrett. The Western Division slopes from the Quantock Hills to the Bristol Channel and the River Parrett, the character of the soil being red sandstone and clay marle. The Eastern Division is to a great extent level country, the character of the soil being clay land and marsh land, except the portion formed by the Polden Hills which is blue lias.

The occupation of the inhabitants is almost entirely agricultural. The house accommodation of the working classes is good and supervision is exercised over the building of new houses which are erected under the modern Bye-Laws of the L.G.B. as adopted by the Council.

Plans have been passed during the year for 45 New Buildings within the District.

All of these have been erected in accordance with the Bye-Laws enforced within the District.

Sewerage and Drainage, is on the whole satisfactory. In the larger villages the sewage is received into settling-tanks which are emptied as occasion requires. In the Eastern Division the efficient drainage of some of the villages is a most difficult matter, though every endeavour has been made to carry this out satisfactorily.

Extensions of the sewers have been carried out at Westonzoyland, Spaxton, Middlezoy, North Petherton and Lyng.

At Westonzoyland, 84 yards of 6-inch pipes with road gullies. At Spaxton 200 yards of 9-inch pipes. At Middlezoy 50 yards of 6-inch pipes. At North Petherton 100 yards of 6-inch pipes and at Lyng 155 yards of 6-inch pipes and cesspool.

Excrement disposal. Where villages are sewered the excrement is disposed of by means of settling-tanks as above described. In other cases earth closets, cess-pits and privies are utilized. House refuse is disposed of by the occupier, no public scavenging being in vogue.

Water Supply. The Council's Water Supply is in a very satisfactory condition, the average amount used was 55,000 gallons per day—the available supply varied considerably during the year, the lowest amount occurred during September, and was 58,000 gallons per day. The highest in December, 215,000 gallons per day.

This water takes its rise on the Quantock Hills from deep springs, and it is of excellent quality, and free from any risk of pollution being conveyed in pipes from its source.

During the early part of the year the water supply for the parish of Cossington, part of Bawdrip, and West Newton, was completed, and during the latter part of the year an extension of the water supply was made to Farrington, in the Parish of North Petherton.

A scheme is at present before the Local Government Board for supplying the hamlet of North Moor Corner in the parish of North Petherton.

The Water Supply of some of the outlying districts is from wells the water from which is in some parts of inferior quality.

The Rainfall during the year was 26·37 inches. In 1908, 23·06 inches. In 1907, 29·61 inches.

Rainfall during each month in inches.				No. of Days on which rain fell.
January	...	1·39	...	16
February	...	·43	...	4
March	...	2·38	...	21
April	...	2·48	...	13
May	...	·81	...	8
June	...	2·49	...	16
July	...	1·83	...	17
August	...	2·03	...	11
September	...	2·66	...	11
October	...	4·70	...	26
November	...	·84	...	10
December	...	4·33	...	18
Total Rainfall 26·37				Total wet days 170

The lowest temperature recorded was 3° on March 4th..

The highest 91° on August 15th.

Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops, Bake-houses, Factories and Workshops, have been inspected periodically, and any defects found, remedied.

The Bye-Laws in force in the District are Cleansing of Footways and Removal of Refuse, Prevention of Nuisances, Common Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodgings, New Streets and Buildings, Slaughter-houses, Cemeteries, and offensive Trades. They have been generally complied with.

Nuisances. Notices have been served throughout the district with reference to these, and have been complied with.

The Infectious Disease (notification) Act is in force, and cases reported are at once visited and steps taken to stop the spread of the disease. The disinfection of premises is carried out by the Council's Officer.

Factories and Workshops, There are 85 Factories and Workshops, viz :—25 Bake-houses and 60 general Workshops, a few minor defects were found and these were remedied by the owners. Very little home work is done, only 4 people being employed in this work, the houses in which they work were found in a satisfactory condition.

The general health of the district has been good. Fifty-eight cases of infectious disease were reported and of these 14 were Diphtheria, 37 Scarlet Fever, 5 Erysipelas, 1 Puerperal Fever and 1 Typhoid.

A small epidemic of Diphtheria occurred amongst the children attending the Wembdon School during February. The school was closed for a fortnight and disinfected, and the other children in the infected families injected with antidiphtheritic serum. The measures adopted proved effectual and no further cases occurred.

Three cases of Tuberculosis were reported during the year, all of which have died, one a case from Wales died within a few days after arriving in the district. One of the cases was removed to the Workhouse and treated in a chalet.

From the 7 chief Epidemic Diseases 6 deaths were registered as against 4 in 1908, representing the very low zymotic death rate of 27 per thousand of population.

Regarding the vital Statistics of the year, 251 deaths were registered as against 233 in 1908, representing an annual rate of mortality of 13·7 as against 13·0 in the previous year, of these 251 deaths, 127 occurred aged 65 years and upwards, and 31 under 1 year of age.

In the Western Division of the District 133 deaths were registered and in the Eastern Division 118.

Of the several causes of deaths, 14 resulted from Phthisis, 49 from Pneumonia, Bronchitis, &c., 25 from Heart Disease, and 6 from Injuries.

During the year the following Schools were closed in consequence of Epidemic Disease.

East Huntspill :—January 11th to March 1st, for Measles.

Wembdon :—February 19th to March 8th, for Diphtheria.

North Moor Green :—March 3rd to March 22nd, for Influenza.

Spaxton :—April 29th to May 10th, for Measles.

The Bridgwater Rural District is divided into 5 Registration Districts, viz :—The Cannington District ; The North Petherton District ; The Middlezoy District ; The Huntspill District and Bridgwater (Without).

Below are given particulars of the population, birth rate and death rate, of these various districts, together with the number of infectious cases occurring and the villages in which they occurred.

CANNINGTON DISTRICT.

Population, 1,738.

		1908.	1909.
Birth Rate	...	20·1	17·2
Death Rate	...	12·1	14·9

Infectious Diseases reported :—

Fiddington. 1 case of Diphtheria and 1 case of Puerperal Fever

Combwich. 1 case of Diphtheria.

Cannington. 2 cases of Erysipelas.

NORTH PETHERTON DISTRICT.

Population, 6,425.

		1908.	1909.
Birth Rate	...	22·2	19·7
Death Rate	...	12·0	15·8

Infectious Diseases reported :—

North Petherton. 12 cases of Scarlet Fever, 2 cases of Erysipelas and 1 Diphtheria.

Charlynch. 3 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Broomfield. 1 case of Scarlet Fever.

Thurloxtan. 1 case of Scarlet Fever.

**BRIDGWATER (WITHOUT) DISTRICT,
INCLUDING—WEMBDON, CHILTON TRINITY,
AND DURLEIGH.**

Population, 1,758.

		1908.	1909.
Birth Rate	...	24·4	20·0
Death Rate	...	10·8	14·8

Infectious Diseases reported :—

Wembdon. 7 cases of Diphtheria and 2 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Bridgwater (Without). 2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 case of Diphtheria.

Durleigh. 1 case of Diphtheria.

MIDDLEZOY DISTRICT.

Population, 1,967.

		1908.	1909.
Birth Rate	...	17·3	19·3
Death Rate	...	15·7	8·6

Infectious Diseases reported :—

Westonzoyland. 1 case of Diphtheria and 1 case of Erysipelas.

Middlezoy. 1 case of Diphtheria.

HUNTSPILL DISTRICT.

Population, 6,350.

		1908.	1909.
Birth Rate	...	20·8	21·1
Death Rate	...	14·0	14·6

Infectious Diseases reported :—

Edington. 3 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Ashcott. 8 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 case of Typhoid Fever.

Bawdrip. 1 case of Scarlet Fever.

Puriton. 3 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Huntspill. 1 case of Scarlet Fever.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILBERFORCE THOMPSON.



Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

For the Year 1909.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

Herewith I beg to hand you my Report of Administrative Work for the year ending 1909.

I have during the year made 388 Special Inspections, these having been brought to my notice, all of which have had my attention and have served notices where necessary and when directed by Council to do so. I am pleased to say in almost every case the Owners and Occupiers have readily complied to the Statutory Notices that have been served upon them to abate nuisances complained of and the following nuisances have been abated :—

Council's drains broken in and choked up	...	...	40
Private drains choked up and broken in	...	...	34
Accumulation of Manure	...	...	8
Dangerous buildings pulled down after been condemned			14
Premises in a dirty condition	...	...	17
Pigs improperly kept, in dirty condition	...	...	12
Rooms disinfected after Diphtheria and Fever	...	...	60
New W.C's. built	...	...	29
Foul ditches cleaned out	...	...	16
Two Wells have been sunk where the water was condemned			2
Seven Samples of Water have been sent to the Analyst and condemned	...	...	7
The Outfalls have been inspected during the year	...	...	21
Bed and Bedding have been destroyed in two cases	...	...	2
The Gullies have been cleaned out in the Parishes and disinfected			
Drains tested	...	...	22
Cow-houses cleaned and whitened out	..	...	13
Butchers' Licenses granted	...	...	5
One case of Tuberculosis in Cow has been notified during the year	...	...	1

New Drainage has been carried out at the Council's expense.

Westonzoyland. 84 yards of 6-inch Pipes with Road Gullies.

Spaxton. 200 yards of 9-inch Pipes.

Middlezoy. 50 yards of 6-inch Pipes.

North Petherton. 100 yards of 6-inch. Pipes and Inspection Chamber

Lyng. 155 yards of 6-inch Pipes and a Cesspool.

Number of Out-workers, 4.

Workshops and Dairies have been inspected from time to time and where found to be in an unsanitary condition, the nuisances have been abated.

Slaughter-houses have been inspected in the whole of the district and where found to be in an unsanitary condition, have been white-limed out and nuisances abated.

Factory and Workshops have been inspected from time to time and where found unsanitary, the occupiers have cleaned and white-limed out same.

R. POPHAM,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1909 and previous years.
Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District.

Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Number.	Rate.*	Under one year		At all Ages.		9.	Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Number.	Rate.*			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.		10.	11.
1899	20099	416	22·7	40	99·9	240	12·9		240	12·9
1900	20326	372	20·5	39	107·4	228	12·7		228	12·7
1901	16680	357	21·3	38	101·8	200	11·9		200	11·9
1902	16680	379	22·7	26	68·6	228	13·6		228	13·6
1903	16680	366	21·3	26	71·0	197	11·8		197	11·8
1904	16680	364	21·2	37	101·6	224	13·4		224	13·4
1905	16680	381	22·8	22	57·7	235	14·0		235	14·0
1906	18238	395	21·6	29	73·4	224	12·2	29	253	13·8
1907	18238	384	21·0	29	75·5	225	12·3	23	248	13·6
1908	18238	387	21·2	23	59·4	215	11·8	22	237	13·0
Average of years 1899-1908.	17853	380	21·2	30	78·9	221	12·3		229	12·8
1909	18238	364	19·9	31	85·1	228	12·5	23	251	13·7

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres }
(exclusive of area } 85,076
covered by water).

Total population at all ages 18,238
Number of inhabited houses 4,260
Average number of persons per house 4·28

At
Census
1901.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1909 and previous years. Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	NORTH PETHERTON DISTRICT.				MIDDLEZOY DISTRICT.				HUNTSPELL DISTRICT.				CANNINGTON DISTRICT.				BRIDGWATER (WITHOUT) DISTRICT.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1899	5228	115	60	12	2344	49	27	6	4532	82	62	8					1430	16	6	3
1900	4568	111	60	12	2366	45	28	2	4556	42	48	8					1430	19	15	4
1901	4568	96	55	10	1967	44	25	4	6350	146	85	18					814	16	6	
1902	5344	99	52	9	1967	52	32	6	6350	142	87	5					814	11	9	
1903	4568	108	56	8	1967	31	23	5	6350	152	67	7					814	16	5	5
1904	4568	107	54	7	1967	46	30	5	6350	149	88	15					814	14	9	5
1905	4568	107	64	8	1967	46	31	2	6350	163	92	8					814	14	8	1
1906	4568	101	64	9	1967	36	32	4	6350	150	93	10					1758	42	16	4
1907	6425	115	91	6	1967	48	34	5	6350	146	86	17		1738	32	21	5	43	16	1
1908	6425	143	77	6	1967	34	31	1	6350	132	89	13		1738	35	21	2	43	19	1
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908.	5083	110	63	8	2044	43	29	4	5988	130	79	10					1220	23	10	2
1909	6425	127	89	7	1967	38	17	3	6350	134	93	18		1738	30	26	1	35	26	2

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909,
In the Bridgwater Rural District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in the whole District.						Total cases notified in each Locality				
	At Ages. Years.						North Petherton District.	Middlezoy District.	Huntspill District.	Cannington District.	Bridgwater (Without) District.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.					
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	14			12	1	1	1	2		2	9
Erysipelas	5		1			2	2	1		2	
Scarlet Fever	37		9	23	3	2	17		16		4
Puerperal Fever	1					1				1	
Enteric fever	1			1					1		
TOTALS	58		10	36	4	6	20	3	17	5	13

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1909.

Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District,

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of Residents be- longing to localities whether occur- ing in or beyond the District.					
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	N. Petherton District.	Middlezey. District.	Huntspill. District.	Cannington District.	Bridgewater (Without) District.	
Scarlet fever	1	1								1			
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1		1							1			
Enteric Fever	1					3	5			1	1	2	
Epidemic Influenza	8	2					1	2		4			
Diarrhoea	3						1			1			
Enteritis	2				1		1			1			
Puerperal fever	1		1							2	1		
Erysipelas	1							1					
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	14		2	3	11			6	1	2	1	4	
Other tubercular diseases	5				1			2		1	2		
Cancer, malignant disease	17				8		9	6	1	6	1	3	
Bronchitis	29	3	5		2		19	14	1	1	1	2	
Pneumonia	19	4	5	1		3	6	8	3	4		4	
Pleurisy	1					1				1			
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	1		1						2			
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	1					1				1			
Premature Birth	4	4								4			
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1					1		1					
Heart Diseases	25	1			2	8	15	6	3	12	2	2	
Accidents	6			2		2	1	2	1	3			
All other Causes	109	15	2	3	1	18	70	41	6	36	17	9	
ALL CAUSES	251	31	16	9	9	59	127	89	17	93	26	26	

TABLE V.

Name of District--Bridgwater Rural District.
Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under
One Year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.					Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes. { Certified Uncertified					7 2	3	1		11 2	3	6	2	1		3		2	1	29 2
i. Common infectious Diseases.																			
	Small -pox	...	...	...												
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...												
	Measles	...	...	...												
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...							1								1
	Diphtheria : Croup	...	...	...												
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...												
ii. Diarrhoeal Diseases.																			
	Diarrhoea, all forms	...	...	...											1		1		2
	Enteritis, Muco-enteris	...	...	...												
	Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...												
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal	...	...	...												
	Catarrh	...	...	...						1									1
iii. Wasting Diseases.																			
	Premature Birth	...	...	...	4				4										4
	Congenital Defects	...	...	...	2				2			1							3
	Injury at Birth	...	...	...												
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	...	...	...												
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	1				1	1	2		1						5
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.																			
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...												
	Tuberculous Peritonitis :	...	...	...												
	Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...												
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...												
v. Other Causes.																			
	Erysipelas	...	...	...												
	Syphilis	...	...	...												
	Rickets	...	...	...												
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...												
	Convulsions	...	...	...	1	3			4										4
	Bronchitis	...	...	...						1	1							1	3
	Laryngitis	...	...	...								1							1
	Pneumonia	...	...	...											2		1		4
	Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	...	1				1										1
	Other Causes	...	...	...			1		1		1								2
					9	3	1		13	3	6	2	1		3		2	1	31

Population estimated to middle of 1909, 18238.

Births in the Year { Legt., 356. Deaths in the Year of { Legt. Infants, 28.
 { Illegt., 8. { Illegt. Infants, 3.

Deaths from all causes, at all ages—251.

TABLE VI.

Births in the Bridgwater Rural District during the
Four Quarters of the Year 1909.

Arranged in the various Registration Districts.

				1st. Qr.	2nd. Qr.	3rd. Qr.	4th. Qr.	TOTAL.
North Petherton District	...	...		29	33	31	34	127
Middlezoy District	...	...		3	9	8	18	38
Huntspill District	...	...		42	42	25	25	134
Bridgwater (Without) District	...			8	12	9	6	35
Cannington District	...	...		11	7	5	7	30
Rate per 1000 1908—21·2								364
ditto 1909—19·9								